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REMARKS

Claims 1-19 currently are pending in this application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants' Response to 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection over Hou

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,791,063 to Hou et al. (hereinafter "Hou"). Applicant respectfully request reconsideration on the basis that Hou fails to disclose each and every element of Applicants' claims, as amended herein.

The Examiner contends that Hou discloses:

Hou et al discloses substantially as claimed in (col. 28, line 47 to col. 30, line 52) and figures 7-16, an unmodified textile material having a porous structure, which selected from the group consisting of woven, knitted, velour and felts; a non-colloidal mono-polymeric mixture saturated within the porous structure of the textile material to make it substantially non-porous ; wherein the non-colloidal mixture comprises a polysaccharide, an alcohol, and water; and furthermore, wherein polysaccharide is an alginate.

(Office Action, at page 2).

Independent claim1 is directed to a method of making a blood-tight implantable textile material including the steps of providing an unmodified textile material; mixing a polysaccharide with water and an alcohol to form a non-colloidal mono-polymeric mixture; and saturating the textile material with the mixture.

Independent claim 11 is directed to a blood-tight textile material implantable in a mammal including an unmodified textile material having a porous structure, a non-colloidal mono-polymeric mixture saturated within the porous structure of the textile material to make it substantially non-porous, the non-colloidal mixture including a polysaccharide, an alcohol, and water.

Hou discloses polyionese transformed modified polysaccharide supports. Hou is directed to separation matrices useful for removing microorganism-originated contaminants from biological liquids and methods for their preparation and use. Separation matrices are used for ion exchange chromatography, affinity chromatography or reverse phase chromatography (col.1, lines 21-30; col. 9, lines 1-5). Figures 7-16 show a column 10 comprising a cylindrical stationary phase 12, a cylindrical tube 13, which form cylindrical chambers 14.

In contrast to Hou, claims 1 and 11 recite an unmodified textile material. An unmodified textile material is defined as a textile material which has not been physically or chemically treated in order to make the textile material more hydrophilic (paragraph [0029]). Claim 11 further recites an unmodified textile material having a porous structure. However, Hou teaches away from an unmodified textile material. Hou discloses modified polysaccharide supports (col. 28, lines 48-63). Further, claims 1 and 11 recite a non-collodial monopolymeric mixture formed

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from mixing a polysaccharide with water and alcohol. The specification of the present invention defined "non-collodial mono-polymeric mixture" as a mixture which has only one polymer included therein(paragraph [0029]). Hou discloses a polysaccharide altered with various components such as oxidizing agents, i.e. periodate, hydrogen peroxide, ceric or other metallic oxidinzing ions and alike(col. 28, lines 49-68). Furthermore, claim 1 recites saturating the unmodified textile material with the non-collodial mono-polymeric mixture. Claim 11 recites the non-coolodial mono-polymeric mixture saturated within the textile to make it substantially non-porous. In contrast, Hou does not disclose saturating or making non-porous material of any kind. Further, Hou fails to disclose a mixture of polysaccharide, alcohol and water.

A reference under Section 102 must disclose each and every aspect of the claimed invention. Hou fails to disclose or suggest an umodified textile, a non-colloidal mono-polymeric mixture or saturating the textile with the mixture, as recited in the claims. Therefore, claims 1 and 11, and all claims that depend therefrom, are patentable over Hou. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Section 102 rejection.

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CONCLUSION

Claims 1-19 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is therefore respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning the above, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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